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HOUSE BILL 120

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

J. Paul Taylor

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CREATING A STUDENT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. --

A. In order to encourage people to enter the teaching profession and to retain teachers in New Mexico, the commission on higher education shall promulgate rules to establish and administer a student teacher scholarship program.

B. In establishing the program, the commission on higher education shall:

(1) develop standardized methods to identify eligible student teachers and to distribute money to accredited teacher training institutions;

(2) develop criteria for selection of

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1 scholarship recipients, which shall include academic
2 performance, campus involvement, letters of recommendation and
3 personal commitment to the teaching profession;

4 (3) pay full tuition for recipients for the
5 semesters in which they are student teaching; and

6 (4) ensure that recipients comply with all
7 rules adopted by the commission for the scholarship program

8 Section 2. STUDENT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP FUND CREATED. --

9 The "student teacher scholarship fund" is created in the state
10 treasury. Money in the fund shall not revert at the end of a
11 fiscal year. Money appropriated to the fund or accruing to it
12 through gifts, grants, bequests and devices shall be deposited
13 in the fund. The fund shall be invested as other state funds
14 are invested and income from investment of the fund shall be
15 credited to the fund. Money in the fund is appropriated to the
16 commission on higher education to carry out the purposes of
17 Section 1 of this act. Disbursements from the fund shall be
18 made on warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and
19 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the executive
20 director of the commission on higher education or his
21 authorized representative. The commission may use no more than
22 three percent of the money in the fund for administration.

23 Section 3. APPROPRIATION. -- Five hundred thousand dollars
24 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the student
25 teacher scholarship fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2004

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1 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the
2 fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the
3 end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

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